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PORTSLADE-BY-SEA

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

for the Year 1942,

BY

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



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REPORT

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BY

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.D., also M.O H. of Hove

SURVEYOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., C.R.S.I.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

A. DONALD, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., C.R.S.I.

PHYSICIANS TO THE CHILD WELFARE CENTRES—

Miss V. E. CLAXTON, M.B., B.S., London.

Miss D. A. CAREW HUNT, M.D., London.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE—

Nurse TURNER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1942

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1942 in its usual wartime austere form. I have again to record with gratification that the general health of the community was maintained at as high a level as in previous years and the slight rise in the general Death Rate was due more to causes connected with the increasing age of a population whose total numbers have diminished. Among the major infectious diseases Scarlet Fever and Pneumonia showed about the normal incidence, and there was only one case of Diphtheria, a result which may have been due at least in part to the campaign for the immunisation of children of pre-school and school ages carried on during the past few years. In 1942 a total of 612 children from 1—5 years, and 1016 5—15 were treated, and it is estimated that 66·7% of these two age groups have now been immunised. The outbreak of Measles which commenced in the autumn of 1941 carried over to the earlier months of the following year when 179 cases were notified. It is interesting to note that the chief incidence fell on children between the ages of 5—10, which probably accounts for the light character and absence of complications in most of the cases and the total absence of deaths. Whooping Cough was also prevalent during the same quarter to a lesser extent and again there were no deaths.

The Birth Rate rose from 13·9 to 19·4, with 4 Infant Deaths making an Infant Mortality Rate of 19 per 1,000 Births—a very satisfactory figure.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis of all forms was 10, and of the 7 Pulmonary cases 6 were between the ages of 15 to 45, 4 being females. There were 7 deaths, 5 of which were not diagnosed until within 3 months of their death mainly in hospital. It is obvious that the only hope of reducing this wastage of productive lives rests in earlier diagnosis which in its turn depends upon the patient seeking advice at a much earlier stage in his disease than he has hitherto been prepared to do. The mass X-raying of selected groups of individuals visualised under the Government's new scheme will only be effective if it is accompanied by sound propaganda and education.

The Casualty Branch of Civil Defence, reduced in numbers, well maintained their enthusiasm and efficiency throughout this year as evidenced by their success in the various First Aid Competitions.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

Medical Officer of Health

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	200	100	100
	Illegitimate	10	3	7

Birth-rate 19·4

Stillbirths :—4 Rate per 1,000 births—19·0.

DEATHS	146	67	79
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Corrected Death Rate 13·1

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-birth :—

From eptis : 1. From other causes : 1.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—4

Rate per 1,000 births : Total 19.

Deaths from

Measles (all ages)	...	...	none
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	none
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			none

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

S ANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

DRAINAGE

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :—

There are 10 houses served by 6 cesspools, of these cesspools 2 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 2 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act. Two houses draining into a cesspool were completely redrained and connected to the sewer during the year. the cesspool being filled in.

In addition there are 9 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board

SANITARY INSPECTION—The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :—

Houses inspected for housing defects	...	152
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts		345
Houses inspected after complaints	...	309
Premises disinfected	... ..	12
Informal notices issued (Housing & P.H. Acts)		127
Statutory notices issued	„ „ „	12
Houses found dirty	... ..	68
„ with insufficient bins	... ..	47
Drains defective	... ..	69
Closets	„	41
Sinks	„	39
Roofs and Gutters defective	... ..	26
Paving of Yards defective	... ..	22
Damp & Defective Walls, Ceilings, Floors etc.		39
Cesspools defective	... ..	3
Offensive Accumulations	... ..	5

RATS AND MICE—The Sanitary Inspector acts as Officer under this Act, tins of poison with handbills were given free to applicants and infested premises inspected

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year 17 Council Houses were found to be infested to a varying degree and 23 Non-Council Houses. The whole of these houses were disinfected as follows :—

- (2) By removing or easing all woodwork, skirting-boards, architraves, etc., and thoroughly spraying with special liquids.

In all cases the work has been carried out by the Council and in the case of Non-Council Houses the cost of materials used has been charged to the Landlord.

- (3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses, are that, all premises and furniture of persons about to move into Council Houses are inspected prior to removal

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	152
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				295
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	15
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				30
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...			—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...		152

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	132
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

A-Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	18
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B-Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	103
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :	
(a)	By Owners	12
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C-Proceedings under sections 11, and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	0

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) :—	
(a)	To render the house fit for human habitation	0
(b)	As to usage other than for human habitation	0

D-Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV—OVERCROWDING

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	7
(ii)	Number of families therein	10
(iii)	Number of persons	67
(b)	Number or new cases reported during the year	—
(c) (i)	Number of cases relieved	—
(ii)	Number of persons concerned	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY—There are only 2 farms in the district from which milk is supplied ; these are kept in a satisfactory condition.

There are 4 dairies in the district, 3 Cowkeepers, 20 shops where milk is sold in bottles only ; and 19 Retailers and Dairymen who deliver milk in this district, of which 16 have premises in other districts. 1 Cowshed and Dairy was completely reconditioned during the year.

MEAT.—There are two Slaughter-houses in the district These were closed immediately after the outbreak of War

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :

64½ lbs. of Cheese. 27 lbs. of Butter. 17½ lbs. of Bacon.
73 tins of Food.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1942.

DISEASE	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Re- moved Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	13			1	1	1	8	1	1					12	
Erysipelas ...	2										1	1			
Pneumonia ...	17					2	1	1		4	2	4	3		4
Diphtheria ...	1					1								1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1					
Ophthalmia neon- tatorum ...															
Measles ...	179	1	6	10	17	21	118	4	1	1				1	
Whooping Cough	11	2	2	2		1	4							1	
	223	3	8	13	18	25	131	6	2	6	3	5	3	15	4

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Periods		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
15	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
20	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—
35	...	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		2	5	—	3	4	1	2	—

